(b) and (c) The requests for inclusion in the OBC/SC/ST list are processed in accordance with the approved modalities. It requires consultation with various agencies, which is a time-consuming process.

Dr. Ambedkar International Award

2119. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar International Award for social change has been kept in abeyance by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation since the year 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Dr. Ambedkar National Award for upliftment of the weaker sections has been kept in abeyance by the Foundation since the year 1999; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order

2120. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order with a view to provide that a person who has been treated as a Scheduled Caste in a State would belong to a Scheduled Caste throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No Sir. In accordance with Article 341(1) of the Constitution, the lists of Scheduled Castes are State specific. However, all Scheduled Castes irrespective of the State of origin are eligible, in regard to appointments in Central Government services.

Destitute female children

2121. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of female children are now roaming in urban areas without a place to stay and without guardians;

(b) whether it is a fact that such girls are loitering around railway stations and public places without any help or protection;

(c) whether Government have any scheme or plan to attend to this dire social requirement of the society;

(d) Government's plan to find and take care of girls without any guardians in the cities;

(e) whether any hotline has been established to encourage information on such destitute girls in the cities; and

(f) the details of such plans by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the problem of street children including female children in urban areas.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' which aims at prevention of destitution and withdrawal of children from a life on the street